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20 August 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Soviet Staff, CO

THROUGH: Chief, Requirements Branch, St/I/RR

THROUGH: Chief, Economic Research, ORR

THROUGH: Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

FROM: Chief, Medium Machinery Branch, D/I

SUBJECT: Recommendation for disposition of Soviet machine tools
acquired by Sovmat to fill I/MI requirements.

REFERENCES: (a) Memo -- Chief, I/MI to Chief, St/I/RR -- dated 27 Sep 55.
(b) Memo #417 -- Chief, Soviet Staff/CO to Chief, St/I/R, ORR --
dated 26 Nov 56.
(c) Memo #545 -- Chief, Soviet Staff/CO to Chief, St/I/R, ORR --
dated 19 Apr 57.

1. Attachment A to this memo lists the various machine tools acquired under the Sovmat program. Only three of these machines -- items 1009, 2065, and 3399 -- are presently available, the other machines having been delivered to another CIA component.

2. The exploitation of these machines has provided I/MI with valuable technological information on Soviet machine tools. It must be acknowledged, however, that it has proved impossible to exploit their full intelligence potential. For example, a prime factor influencing I/MI's request for the acquisition of Soviet machine tools was the desire to establish a record of maintenance and repair requirements under production conditions. [REDACTED] the responsible analyst, repeatedly has stressed the importance of periodic reports reflecting production usage. However, these machine tools have never been set-up under actual production conditions where this type of information could be accumulated.

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3. At this time it must be realistically assumed that this type of information will not be forthcoming. Several years have elapsed since these machines were acquired and several additional years would be necessary before meaningful data could be accumulated. This time lag would seriously limit the value of such a study. In addition, the number of machine tools presently available is so small that the results of even a protracted testing program would be inconclusive.

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4. Therefore, in order to avoid additional expense to CIA, it is recommended that the 3 machine tools presently available -- items 1009, 2865, and 3309 be:

- a. made available to the CIA component which already has 5 Soviet machines, or
- b. released to a US government production or research group which has use for them.

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5. It is understood that I/MM will not submit any additional requirements for the exploitation of these machine tools. At various times in the future, however, [REDACTED] would like to talk with representatives of the CIA component presently using these machines to discuss, in general terms, operating and performance characteristics.

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Enclosure:

Attachment A

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Sovmat/00
1 - St/I/R
1 - Ch/E
1 - D/I
2 - I/MM

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ORR:I/MM: [REDACTED] pab/2922 (20 Aug 57)

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